United Nations A/62/761

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 March 2008

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 70
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 19 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Referring to the note verbale dated 17 March 2008 regarding preparation by the Secretary-General of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007 entitled "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty", and in compliance with paragraph 4 of the resolution, I have the honour to convey to you information on the abolition of the death penalty in the Republic of Uzbekistan as at 1 January 2008 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the attached information as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the abolition of the death penalty in the Republic of Uzbekistan

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on abolition of the death penalty in the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 1 August 2005, the death penalty was abolished in Uzbekistan effective from 1 January 2008.

Capital punishment was replaced by a long prison term or life sentence which can only be applied in the case of two categories of offences: premeditated murder in aggravating circumstances and terrorism. Application of these penalties to women, minors and men over the age of 60 years is prohibited by the law of the country.

For the past more than two years since the above-mentioned Presidential Decree was issued consistent measures have been taken by the relevant ministries and institutions of the country to ensure full implementation of the provisions of the Decree.

Consistent explanatory work has been done to explain to all sections of the population the value of liberalization of the penal system, including the abolition of the death penalty.

The Presidential Decree on additional measures to develop legislative and normative acts required to be adopted in connection with the abolition of the death penalty in the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted on 29 June 2006 contributed to an effective implementation of the necessary measures in this area.

The necessary amendments and additions to the existing national legislative acts have been introduced. In particular, on 29 June 2007 the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Law on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the abolition of the death penalty. In accordance with this law amendments and additions on the elimination of the death penalty from the criminal justice system and its replacement with a life sentence or prolonged term of imprisonment were introduced to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Criminal Enforcement of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan has been carrying out cardinal reforms in its legal and judicial spheres aimed at gradual liberalization of the State's penal system. The abolition of the death penalty in the country has become one of the significant results of these reforms.